

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4754

1. Name

Historic 614 – 616 South Regester Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 614 – 616 South Regester Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number
city, town state & zip code telephone

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This pair of two-bay wide, 2 ½ story brick houses with gable roofs and a single dormer window apiece represent the only surviving pair of early nineteenth century houses built along the west side of the 700 block of South Regester Street. The pair is notable for its one-room-deep floor plan and steeply-pitched gable roof—a plan seen on some of the earliest Federal-period houses in the area. The dormer windows have a simple broken pediment. 614 retains its original brick façade but 616 has been covered with formstone.

The houses are two-and-a half stories in height, 15' wide, and occupy lots 80' deep. Each house has a two-story brick rear addition housing the kitchen and an extra bedroom, somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only entrance to the backyard is through the sallyport located in the center of the pair. The houses are constructed in Flemish bond, typical of the oldest houses in Fells Point. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. Each house has a double-flued chimney stack located at the peak of the gable roof. There is also a chimney at the rear corner of the kitchen addition.

The first floor door and window openings are surmounted by splayed brick lintels and have stone sills. The window openings of 614, which has been restored, are filled with 6/6 sash; those of 616 are 1/1 replacement sash. Both houses have replacement doors and no transom. The houses have no basements, the entrances being reached directly from the sidewalk. An arched alleyway runs between the two houses.

The houses are only one room deep, the front room being entered directly from the front door. The stairs are located at the rear of the main room and ascend in a tightly winding curve to the second floor. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen. With an extra bedroom above. The dormer story has a single large room beneath the high rafters.

8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1790 - 1795

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This pair of houses is significant as being representative of some of the earliest surviving houses in the city, many of which are found in Fells Point. These houses, whether two-and-a-half stories in height, or only two (without the dormer window) have only one main room on each floor and often no basement. The houses are Federal in style, and show fine construction details like Flemish bond brickwork, splayed brick lintels and stone sills, despite their being located on a narrow "alley" street.

These particular houses were built in the 1790s at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Regester Street was known as Argyle Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

The houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title	Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward				
Organization	The Alley House Project			date	
street & number	1306 Carrollton Ave.			telephone	
city, town	Baltimore			state & zip code	Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

1906 City Atlas

PO

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PRIMARY	SCHOOL
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N
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SPRUC

PUBLIC	1/2	1/6	20	3	4	428	60	194	194
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BROADWAY

AVE

FELLS POINT MARKET

FOUNTAIN

Washburn
4th St. N.W.

ST

GERMAN AMERICAN
CHEMICAL PAINT & VARN
WORKS

SH
DAVISES WHARF

B-4754
614-616 S. Regester Street
Block 1828 Lots 071-072
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





614-616 S. Regester

B-4754

614-616 S. Regester St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

11/97

10D

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MD SHPD

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